

## FIR

**FIRECHIO.** *n. f.* See **FENNEL**, of which plant it is a species.

**FIPPLE.** *n. f.* [from *fibula*, Latin.] A stopper.  
You must know, that in recorders, which go with a gentle breath, the concave of the pipe, were it not for the fipple that straiteneth the air, much more than the simple concave would yield no sound. *Bacon's Natural History.*

**FIR.** *n. f.* [*fir*, Welsh; *purp*, Saxon; *fyr*, Danish.] The tree of which deal-boards are made.

It is ever green; the leaves are single, and for the most part produced on every side of the branches: the male flowers, or catkins, are placed at remote distances from the fruit on the same tree. The seeds are propagated on cones, which are squamose. See **PINE-TREE**. *Miller.*  
He covered the floor of the house with planks of fir. *1 King.*  
The 'spiring fir and flately box adorn. *Pope.*

**FIRE.** *n. f.* [*fyr*, Saxon; *feur*, German.]

1. The igneous element.

2. Any thing burning.

A little fire is quickly trodden out,  
Which, being suffer'd, rivers cannot quench. *Shakef. H. VI.*

Where two raging fires meet together,  
They do consume the thing that feeds their fury. *Shakef.*

So contraries on Etna's top conspire;  
Here hoary frosts, and by them breaks out fire. *Cowley.*

3. A conflagration of towns or countries.

There is another liberality to the citizens, who had suffered damage by a great fire. *Arbutnot on Coins.*

Though safe thou think'st thy treasure lies,  
Conceal'd in chests from human eyes,  
A fire may come, and it may be  
Bury'd, my friend, as far from thee. *Granville.*

4. Flame; light; lustre.

Stars, hide your fires!  
Let not night see my black and deep desires! *Shakef. Macb.*

5. Torture by burning.

Did Shadrach's zeal my glowing breast inspire,  
To weary tortures, and rejoice in fire? *Prior.*

6. The punishment of the damned.

Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? Who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings? *Isa. xxxiii.*

7. Any thing provoking; any thing that inflames the passions.

What fire is in my ears? Can this be true?  
Stand I condemn'd for pride and scorn so much? *Shakef.*

8. Ardour of temper; violence of passion.

He had fire in his temper, and a German bluntness; and, upon provocations, might strain a phrase. *Asterbury.*

9. Liveliness of imagination; vigour of fancy; intellectual activity; force of expression; spirit of sentiment.

Nor can the frow that age does shed  
Upon thy rev'rend head,  
Quench or allay the noble fire within,  
But all that youth can be thou art. *Cowley.*

They have no notion of life and fire in fancy and in words, and any thing that is just in grammar and in measure is good oratory and poetry to them. *Fulton on the Classics.*

10. The passion of love.

Love various hearts does variously inspire,  
It fits in gentle bosoms gentle fire,  
Like that of incense on the altar laid;  
But raging flames tempestuous souls invade;  
A fire which every windy passion blows,  
With pride it mounts, and with revenge it glows. *Dryden.*

The fire of love in youthful blood,  
Like what is kindled in bruth-wood,  
But for a moment burns. *Shadwell.*

11. The god of love retires;

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**FIREBALL.** *n. f.* [*fire and ball*.] Grenado; ball filled with combustibles, and bursting where it is thrown.

Judge of those insolent boasts of confidence, which, like so many fireballs, or mouth grenadoes, are thrown at our church. *South's Sermons.*

The same great man hath sworn to make us swallow his coin in fireballs. *Swift.*

**FIREBRUSH.** *n. f.* [*fire and brush*.] The brush which hangs by the fire to sweep the hearth.

When you are ordered to stir up the fire, clean away the ashes from betwixt the bars with the firebrush. *Swift.*

**FIREBRAKE.** *n. f.* [*fire and brake*.] A fiery serpent: I suppose the preter.

By the hissing of the snake,  
The rustling of the firebrake,  
I charge thee thou shalt forsake,  
Nor of queen Mab be prattling. *Dra. ton's Nymphs.*

**FIRENEW.** *adj.* [*fire and new*.] New from the forge; new from the melting-house.

Armado is a most illustrious wight,  
A man of firenew words, fashion's own knight. *Shakef.*

Some excellent jests, firenew from the mint. *Shakef.*

Upon the wedding-day I put myself, according to custom, in another suit firenew, with silver buttons to it. *Alldj. Guard.*

**FIREPAN.** *n. f.* [*fire and pan*.] Vessel of metal to carry fire.

His firepan, and all the vessels thereof, thou shalt make of brass. *Ex. xxvii. 3.*

Pear of it upon a firepan well heated, as they do tobacco and vinegar. *Bacon's Natural History.*

**FIREP.** *n. f.* [from *fire*.] An incendiary.

Others burned Mouffe, and the rest marched as a guard for defence of these fires. *Corwall's Survey of Cornwall.*

**FIREP.** *n. f.* [*fire and pipe*.] The hearth; the chimney; the focus.

My judgment is, that they ought all to be despised, and ought to serve but for Winter talk by the fireside. *Bacon.*

By his fireside he starts the hare,  
And turns her in his wicker chair:  
His feet, however lame, you find,  
Have got the better of his mind. *Prior.*

What art thou asking of them, after all? Only to fit quietly at thy own fireside. *Arbutnot's Hist. of John Bull.*

**FIRESTICK.** *n. f.* [*fire and stick*.] A lighted stick or brand.

Children, when they play with firesticks, move and while them round so fast, that the motion will cozen their eyes, and represent an intire circle of fire to them. *Digby on Badiet.*

**FIREWORK.** *n. f.* [*fire and work*.] Shows of fire; pyrotechnical performances.

The king would have me present the princes with some delightful ostentation, or pageant, or antic, or fireworks. *Shad.*

We represent also ordnance, and new mixtures of gunpowder, wildfres burning in water and unquenchable; and also fireworks of all variety. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*

The ancients were imperfect in the doctrine of meteors, by their ignorance of gunpowder and fireworks. *Braun.*

In fireworks give him leave to vent his spite;  
Those are the only serpents he can write. *Dryden.*

Our companion proposed a subject for a fireworks, which he thought would be very amusing. *Addison's Guardian.*

Their fireworks are made up in paper. *Tatler, N<sup>o</sup>. 88.*

**TO FIRE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To set on fire; to kindle.

They spoiled many parts of the city, and fired the houses of those whom they esteemed not to be their friends; but the rage of the fire was at first hindered, and then appeased by the fall of a sudden shower of rain. *Hayward.*

The breathless body, thus bewail'd, they lay,  
And fire the pile. *Dryden.*

A second Paris, diff'ring but in name,  
Shall fire his country with a second flame. *Dryden's Æn.*

2. To inflame the passions; to animate.

Yet, if desire of fame, and thirst of pow'r,  
A beauteous princel's, with a crown in dow'r,  
So fire your mind, in arms assert your right. *Dryden.*

3. To drive by fire.

He that parts us, shall bring a brand from heav'n  
And fire us hence. *Shakefpeare's King Lear.*

**TO FIRE.** *v. n.*

1. To take fire; to be kindled.

2. To be inflamed with passion.

3. To discharge any firearms.

**FIREBRAND.** *n. f.* [*fire and brand*.]

1. A piece of wood kindled.

I have cased my father-in-law of a firebrand, to set my own house in a flame. *L'Estrange.*

2. An incendiary; one who inflames factions; one who causes mischief.

Troy must not be, nor goodly Ilion stand;  
Our firebrand brother, Paris, burns us all. *Shakefpeare.*

He sent Surrey with a competent power against the rebels, who fought with the principal band of them, and defeated them, and took alive John Chamber, their firebrand. *Bacon.*

**FIRECROSS.**

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**FIRECROSS.** *n. f.* [*fire and cross*.] A token in Scotland for the nation to take arms; the ends thereof burnt black, and in some parts smeared with blood. It is carried like lightning from one place to another. Upon refusal to send it forward, or to rise, the last person who has it shoots the other dead.

He sent his heralds through all parts of the realm, and commanded the firecross to be carried; namely, two firebrands set in fashion of a cross, and pitched upon the point of a spear. *Haywood.*

**FIRELOCK.** *n. f.* [*fire and lock*.] A soldier's gun; a gun discharged by striking steel with flint.

Prime all your firelocks, fatten well the flake. *Gay.*

**FIREMAN.** *n. f.* [*fire and man*.]

1. One who is employed to extinguish burning houses.

The fireman treads beneath his crooked arms;  
A leathern casque his vent'rous head defends,  
Boldly he climbs where thickest smoke ascends. *Gay.*

2. A man of violent passions.

I had laid night the fate to drink a bottle with two of these firemen. *Tatler, N<sup>o</sup>. 61.*

**FIREPAN.** *n. f.* [*fire and pan*.]

1. A pan for holding fire.

2. [In a gun.] The receptacle for the priming powder.

**FIRESHIP.** *n. f.* [*fire and ship*.] A ship filled with combustible matter to fire the vessels of the enemy.

Our men bravely quitted themselves of the fireships, by cutting the spritsail tackle. *Wijman's Surgery.*

**FIRESHOVEL.** *n. f.* [*fire and shovel*.] The instrument with which the hot coals are thrown up in kitchens.

Nim and Bardolph are sworn brothers in fleching; and in Calais they stole a fireshovel. *Shakefpeare's Henry V.*

Culinary utensils and irons often feel the force of fire; as tongs, firebrands, prongs, and irons. *Brown's Ulysses Errours.*

The neighbours are coming out with forks and fireshovels, and spits, and other domestic weapons. *Dryd. Span. Fryar.*

**FIRESTONE.** *n. f.* [*fire and stone*.]

The firestone, or pyrites, is a compound metallick fossil, composed of vitriol, sulphur, and an unmetallic earth, but in very different proportions in the several masses. The most common sort, which is used in medicine, is a greenish shapeless kind found in our clay-pits, out of which the green vitriol or copperas is procured. It has its name of pyrites, or firestone, from its giving fire on being struck against a steel much more freely than a flint will do; and all the sparks burn a longer time, and grow larger as they fall, the inflammable matter struck from off the stone burning itself out before the spark becomes extinguished. *Hill's Mat. Med.*

Firestone is a kind of stone called also Rygate stone, from the place whence it is chiefly brought, being very good for fireheards, ovens, and foves. *Builder's Dict.*

Firestones, if broke small, and laid on cold lands, must be of advantage. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

**FIREWOOD.** *n. f.* [*fire and wood*.] Wood to burn; fewel.

**FIRING.** *n. f.* [from *fire*.] Fewel.

They burn the cakes, firing being there scarce. *Mortimer.*

**TO FIRE.** *v. a.* [from *ferio*, Latin.] To whip; to beat; to correct; to chastise.

Besides, it is not only foppish,  
But vile, idolatrous and popish,  
For one man out of his own skin  
To strike and whip another's sin. *Hudibras, p. ii. can. 2.*

**FIRKIN.** *n. f.* [from *peper*, Saxon, the fourth part of a vessel.]

1. A vessel containing nine gallons.

Strutt's servants get such a haunt about that shop, that it will cost us many a firkin of strong beer to bring them back again. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

2. A small vessel.

You heard of that wonder of the lightning and thunder, which made the lye so much the louder;  
Now list to another, that miracle's brother,  
Which was done with a firkin of powder. *Denham.*

**FIRM.** *adj.* [*firma*, Latin.]

1. Strong; not easily pierced or shaken; hard, opposed to soft.

The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves, and they cannot be moved. *Job xli. 23.*

Love's artillery then checks  
The breastworks of the firmest sex. *Ciccieland.*

There is nothing to be left void in a firm building; even the cavities ought to be filled with rubbish. *Dryden.*

That body, whose parts are most firm in themselves, and are by their peculiar shapes capable of the greatest contacts, is the most firm; and that which has parts very small, and capable of the least contact, will be most soft. *W edward.*

2. Constant; steady; resolute; fixed; unshaken.

We hold firm to the works of God, and to the sense which is God's lamp. *Bacon's Natural History.*

He straight obeys;  
And firm believes. *Mlt. Paradise Lost.*

The great encouragement is the assurance of a future reward, the firm persuasion whereof is enough to raise us above any thing in this world. *Tillotson, Sermon 6.*

The man that's resolute and just,  
Firm to his principles and trust,

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Nor hopes nor fears can blind. *Walsh.*  
**TO FIRM.** *v. a.* [*firma*, Latin.]

1. To settle; to confirm; to establish; to fix.

He declared the death of the emperor; which after they had seen to be true, they by another secret and speedy messenger advertised Solyman again thereof, firming those letters with all their hands and seals. *Kneller's History of the Turks.*

'Tis rarely'd above by every god,  
And Jove has firm'd it with an awful nod. *Dryd. Albion.*

The pow'r, said he,  
To you, and your's, and mine, propitious be,  
And firm our purpose with their augury. *Dryden's Æn.*

Oh thou, who free'st me from my doubtful state;  
Long lost and wider'd in the maze of fate!  
Be present still: oh goddess, in our aid  
Proceed, and firm those omens thou hast made. *Pope's Stat.*

2. To fix without wandering.

He on his card and compass firm: his eye,  
The masters of his long experiment. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

**FIRMAMENT.** *n. f.* [*firmanentum*, Latin.] The sky; the heavens.

Even to the heavens their shouting shrill  
Doth reach, and all the firmament doth fill. *Spenser.*

I am constant as the northern star,  
Of whole true, fixt, and resting quality,  
There is no fellow in the firmament. *Shakef. Jul. Cesar.*

The Almighty, whose hieroglyphical characters are the unnumbered stars, sun and moon, written on these large volumes of the firmament. *Raleigh's History of the World.*

The firmament expanse of liquid, pure,  
Transparent, elemental air, diffus'd  
In circuit to the uttermost convex  
Of this great round. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vii.*

The steeds climb up the first ascent with pain;  
And when the middle firmament they gain,  
If downward from the heavens my head I bow,  
And see the earth and ocean hang below,  
Ev'n I am seiz'd with horror. *Addison's Ovid's Metamorph.*

What an immensurable space is the firmament, wherein a great number of stars, lesser and lesser, and consequently farther and farther off, are seen with our naked eye, and many more discovered with our glasses! *Derham's Astro-Theology.*

**FIRMAMENTAL.** *adj.* [from *firmanentum*.] Celestial; of the upper regions.

An hollow crystal pyramid he takes,  
In firmamental waters dipt above. *Dryden's Ann. Mirab.*

**FIRMLY.** *adv.* [from *firma*.]

1. Strongly; impenetrably; immoveably.

Thou shalt come of force,  
Though thou art firmier fasten'd than a rock. *Milt. Agonist.*

How very hard particles, which touch only in a few points, can stick together so firmly, without something wh causes them to be attracted towards one another, is difficult to conceive. *Newton's Opt.*

2. Steadily; constantly.

Himself to be the man the fates require;  
I firmly judge, and what I judge desire. *Dryden's Æn. b. vii.*

The common people of Lucca are firmly persuaded, that one Lucrezia can beat five Florentines. *Addison on Italy.*

**FIRMNESS.** *n. f.* [from *firma*.]

1. Stability; hardness; compactness